

5      PLAYER TRACKING COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS IN A  
         GAMING MACHINE

         ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

         A disclosed a player tracking unit provides a display, one or more illumination  
devices adjacent to the display and a logic device designed to control illumination of  
10      the illumination devices in a manner that visually conveys gaming information to an  
individual viewing the devices. A speaker may be also provided on the player tracking  
unit to aurally convey gaming information such as voice messages designed to inform  
or instruct the player in some manner. The player tracking unit may include a wireless  
interface device designed or configured to allow player tracking information to be  
15      automatically downloaded from a portable wireless device carried by the player or  
player status information to be communicated to a casino service representative  
carrying a portable wireless device.